

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 07798 231349Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CPR-01 L-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 JUSE-00 /056 W
-----016990 231926Z /47

R 231318Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2170
INFO USUN NEW YORK 1888

UNCLAS ATHENS 7798

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, EFIN
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO EMBASSY REGARDING NEW YORK CITY'S THREAT
TO CONFISCATE GREEK CONSULATE

1. AT THEIR REQUEST, I CALLED AUGUST 23 ON MFA DIRECTOR
GENERAL CARAYANNIS AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GRIGORIADIS.
THEY WANTED TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF GREEK CONSULATE GENERAL,
UN MISSION, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY WHICH
REPEATEDLY SINCE 1969 HAS BEEN BILLED FOR CITY TAXES. IN
PREVIOUS YEARS, LAWYER HIRED BY GREEK CONGEN HAS SUCCEEDED
IN REFUTING NYC'S CLAIM. ON JULY 6, 1977, HOWEVER,
COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE OF NYC FILED WITH CLERK OF NEW YORK
COUNTRY AN ACTION COMMENCING FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST
GOG BUILDING IN NYC ON GROUNDS THAT REAL ESTATE TAXES WERE
UNPAID SINCE 1958.

2. CARAYANNIS AND GRIGORIADIS, ALTHOUGH UNDERSTANDING VERY
WELL THE DIFFICULTIES OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM AND THE DESIRE
OF A FINANCIALLY STRUGGLING CITY TO INCREASE ITS REVENUES,
NEVERTHELESS REQUESTED ME TO ENCOURAGE DEPARTMENT'S
INTERVENTION TO SETTLE THIS DIFFICULTY ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I UNDERSTAND A SIMILAR DEMARCHE HAS BEEN MADE BY GREEK
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ATHENS 07798 231349Z

3. GOG ARGUMENT THAT ITS BUILDING IN NEW YORK SHOULD BE
EXEMPT FROM TAXATION IS BASED ON ARTICLE 23 OF VIENNA CONVENTION
ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, ARTICLE 32 OF VIENNA CONVENTION ON
CONSULAR RELATIONS, THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS IN THE
CASE OF REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA VERSUS CITY OF NEW YORK, AND
INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY. IF FACTS
OF MATTER ARE AS STATED, GOG WOULD SEEM FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE TO

HAVE AN IRON-CLAD CASE, AND REPEATED RAISING OF THE SAME ISSUE YEAR AFTER YEAR WOULD SEEM TO BE UNNECESSARY IRRITANT WHICH COULD EASILY BE ELIMINATED.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPARTMENT DO WHAT IT CAN TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE PERMANENTLY AND INFORM EMBASSY OF STEPS IT HAS TAKEN.
MILLS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, THREATS, CONSULATES, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, TAXES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS07798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770304-0707
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770835/aaaabdde.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e0096956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1522250
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHE TO EMBASSY REGARDING NEW YORK CITY'S THREAT TO CONFISCATE GREEK CONSULATE
TAGS: PDIP, EFIN, US, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0096956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009